

WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

PAGE-TURNER

THE BIG IDEA

God is patient while
we grow.

THE BIBLE

Parable of the Fig Tree:
Luke 13:6-9

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Epic Praise!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead the kids in worship with any songs you like, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Jump Around" (Kidspring)
 - "My God is So Big" (Life Kids)
 - "Power Up Dance Moves" (Orange Music)
 - "Looking At My Heart" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Baby Bird Rescue

- Alright, Page-Turner friends! We have been having so much fun pretending to be traveling to these wonderful book worlds.
- Today, our help is needed in a story taking place in the woods! You are on your way to your grandma's house to take her some goodies when you hear some small chirps by the walking path. You realize that some baby birds have fallen out of their nest and need to return home!
- So, each of you is going to carry a baby bird [*pom-pom.*] in your safe, little basket [*plastic spoon.*]. You are going to go down to this river in the woods [*line on the far end of the room.*] and deliver the baby bird safely to its nest [*bucket.*].
- One at a time, you are going to safely put your baby bird back in its nest. If the baby bird falls out of your basket, you have to return to the starting line and begin again.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into teams of three to four and line them up behind a designated starting line. Give each kid a plastic spoon and a pom-pom. Have the first kids from each team walk across the room and back while holding the pom-pom on their spoons. If the pom-pom falls, they need to go back to the starting line and begin again. Have kids drop their pom-pom into the bucket at the end and run back and tag the next player. The first team to finish wins!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of a pom-pom, use a ball of Play-Doh. The weight of the Play-Doh will make it less likely to fall off of the kids' spoons during the race. Or have toddlers hold the pom-pom in their hand instead of using a spoon.
- That took a lot of patience, didn't it? You couldn't run or else the baby bird would fall.
- **What does it mean to be patient?** Yes, being patient means that we aren't in a hurry!

ACTIVITY | My Flower House

- In some storybooks, we read about creatures like fairies and elves who live in flowers! **What if you were small enough to live in a flower? What kind of flower would you want to live in?**
- Well, in order to make a house inside a flower, you would have to be as small as your hand. Everyone show me your hands!
- Now that you've created your flower out of paint, draw a stem, leaves, and decorate your fairy or elf house any way you'd like!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather the kids around a table or workstations. Give each kid a piece of white construction paper. You will be using finger paint to help the kids create flowers with their handprints. Make sure to have some baby wipes handy for easy cleanup. Provide fun stickers and other decorative items for kids to add to their flowers, and allow them to draw pictures of themselves, too!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using finger paint to create the hand-shaped flowers, trace the kids' hands instead.
- **What would you like about living inside a flower?**
- **What would you not like about living in a flower house?**
- I would imagine living inside a flower when it rained or when it was really windy would be very tough. We would have to wait patiently for the weather to get better and for the sun to shine again.

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Parable of the Fig Tree

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bookmark today's story from Luke 13:6-9 in your Bible.
- Today, our story comes from the Bible in the book of Luke, chapter 13.
- Jesus told a lot of great stories to teach some things to other people that might have been hard to understand. The stories that Jesus told are called parables.
- In this story, Jesus said that a man planted a tree in a vineyard. We aren't told the man's name, so let's come up with a name for him.
 - **What should we call him?** [Pretend they decide his name is Clarence.]

- Great! Our friend, Clarence, planted a tree. It was a fig tree! Do you know what figs are? They are a type of fruit!
 - **What is your favorite type of fruit?**
- Unfortunately, Clarence looked at the tree and it had no fruit on it! Bummer! Can you imagine what that looked like? It was a beautiful tree with thick branches and bright green leaves, but no fruit.
- So, Clarence went and found the man who was working in the garden. Wait a second. The story doesn't tell us his name either.
 - **So, what do you think we should call him?** *[Pretend they decide his name is Bob.]*
- Bob, it is! Clarence tells Bob to cut down the fig tree because it doesn't have any fruit. Bob is sad! He loves that tree! So, Bob says to Clarence, "Let's be patient."
 - **Can you say, "Be patient" with me?**
- Bob said, "I will take really good care of the tree. Let's check on it in a year. If it doesn't have fruit in one year, then we can cut it down. But let's be patient while the tree grows."
- Now I know you are not trees. But let's just imagine you are this fig tree.
 - **How do you feel when you heard that Clarence wanted to cut you down?**
 - **How did it feel when Bob said he would take care of you and help you grow?**
- I would have been so happy that Bob would want to spend time to help me grow and become the best fig tree I could be!
- Did you know that's how God is with us? God knows that we have a lot of growing to do. We have so much to learn but God never gives up. God gives us time and everything we need!

BIG IDEA | God is patient while we grow.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Seat the kids on the floor. You'll need a small apple seed, an apple, and an [apple growth diagram](#). As you discuss the fig tree story, use the same name you and the kids decided on during the Bible storytime. Display the Big Idea storybook and turn to this week's Big Idea.*
- *[Hold up a small apple seed.]* **Does anyone know what this is?** This is an apple seed! This tiny apple seed is planted in the ground and goes through a long process before it becomes a tree with apples.
- *[Show the kids the apple seed to apple tree diagram.]* It takes a long time before a tree is big enough and strong enough to make fruit. It starts with a seed and then a long time later, it becomes this *[Hold up an apple.]*
- The same goes for us! It takes some time for us to grow.
- Let's look at the Big Idea in our giant storybook. *[Turn the page to this week's Big Idea and read it out loud.]* **God is patient while we grow!** Let's say that together!

VIDEO | Page-Turner, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

ACTIVITY | Snail Race

- To learn more about what it's like to be patient, we are going to pretend we have all been transformed into snails in one of our fantasy story lands!
- And guess what? We get to compete in a snail race!

- Let's warm up by dancing to this song. You'll notice that some of the parts of this song are fast and some are slooooooow, so while it's a fast part, I want you to dance normally, but while it's a slow part, I want you to dance in slow motion like you're stuck inside Jello or you're dancing on the moon!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "[Patience \(Herbert the Snail\)](#)" and have a dance party! Then have the kids line up into two teams. Kids will have to get to the other side, but each team member will have to take turns rolling a dice. They can only take as many steps as the dice indicates! First team to get all their players to the other side wins!

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play the "[Snail Pace Race](#)" game with toddlers.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being patient with us. We know we have a lot of growing to do but you take care of us and give us everything we need to grow. Teach us how to be patient like you are with us. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Fruits and Veggies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a variety of fruits and vegetables on a plate for each kid. For every food item, show the kids the food's seed to show them how every food they are eating started out as a small seed.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Cut all of the fruits and veggies into smaller, bite-sized pieces for the younger kids.
- Today, you have lots of yummy fruits and veggies on your plate. As you eat, I want you to see how everything you are eating started out as a tiny, little seed.
- **Did you know apples have seeds?** It might not be in your apple slice but apples grow from seeds like this. *[Show apple seed.]*
- **What about a carrot. . . Do you see any seeds in the carrot?** Nope! There aren't any seeds in the part of the carrot that we eat, but it started out as this small seed! *[Show them a carrot seed.]*
- Finally, look at these seeds. *[Hold up small broccoli seeds.]* They are teeny, tiny! **Can any of you guess which of your foods came from these small seeds?** Broccoli!
- **Do you think it took a short time or a long time for these foods to grow?**
- Yes, it took a long time! And we have to wait until they are ready to be eaten. If we don't, they won't taste very good. We have to wait and be patient for the fruit to be ripe! Then, it will taste so good.
- The same happens in our lives. **God is patient while we grow.**

ACTIVITY | Growing Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** When seated at a table, give every kid an animal capsule, a small cup of warm (not hot) water, and a paper towel.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** To prevent a choking hazard, choose a larger grow-in-water toy or blow up a balloon to demonstrate growing. Blow up a balloon for each kid so they can play with them afterward.

- What do you think is inside of these capsules? I think these capsules are going to magically transform into an incredible creature!
- They can't transform by themselves, though. They need water. Drop your capsules into the water and watch to see what happens.
- **What is happening in your cup?** Nothing yet? That's because it takes time. We have to be patient.
- **What is something that you had to wait for before?**
- *[Once the creatures have emerged from their capsules, have the kids put them on their paper towels to dry.]*
- Just like you were patient with your creatures, God is patient with us, too. And God gives us people in our lives who are patient with us.
- **Who is someone who is patient with you?**

ACTIVITY | Bookmarkster

- Nibbles is a very silly monster who eats something really strange . . . books! Since we're talking all about stories this month, it looks like Nibbles paid us a visit! Let's check out his story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read "[Nibbles the Book Monster](#)" (or play a read-aloud video like [this one](#)). Then gather the supplies needed (check out [these instructions](#) or see your Shop & Prep List) to make a book-nibbling bookmark with your kids.
- Nibbles was so hungry that he just ate through all these books . . . right through the middle of some famous stories!
- **What happened when Nibbles couldn't wait and just ate through all the books?** The stories couldn't finish!
- When the grownups in our lives tell us to wait, it can be hard to do. But if we are patient, we might find that it leads to good things and sometimes the waiting isn't that bad!
- Let's make our own book monster bookmark together. Each time you see your book-nibbler in your Bible or another book you love to read, you can remember to slow down and wait for God to help you grow.

MEMORY VERSE | One Word Growth

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line the kids up and have them sit on the floor. In order, assign each kid one word of the memory verse. (If there are more kids than there are words, assign a couple of kids to the same word and seat them together). Then, have them stand and "grow" when it is their turn to say their word. Have them sit back down and do it several times. As they continue, see how fast they can do it, so that it flows together as one complete verse.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** *Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and the Big Idea as the kids color.*

ACTIVITY | Seed, Rain, Sun

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids play this modified version of "Rock, Paper, Scissors," where rock = seed, paper = sun, and scissors = rain. Have two kids stand back to back. Have everyone chant, "Seed, Rain, Sun!" and the two kids have to turn around and show the hand motion they picked. The winner stays standing and invites a new challenger.*

ACTIVITY | Sand Gardening

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill plastic tubs with kinetic sand or regular sand. Provide shovels and large buttons. Have kids dig and "plant" buttons in the sand.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of large buttons, provide something larger, like balls, for the toddlers to hide under a blanket.*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.